



Office of the Secretary of State
State Capitol
Charleston, West Virginia 25305

Mac Warner
Secretary of State
State of West Virginia

Telephone: (304) 558-6000
Toll Free: 1-866-SOS-VOTE
Fax: (304) 558-0900
www.wvsos.gov

June 26, 2019

Chairman Melody Potter
West Virginia Republican State Executive Committee
P. O. Box 2711
Charleston, WV 25330
Via U.S. Mail and email to mpotterwvgop@aol.com

RE: Wood County Republican Executive Committee Updated Roster

Dear Chairman Potter,

Thank you for your response to my inquiry regarding the updated Wood County Republican Executive Committee roster that you submitted.

After further researching the relevant statutory and common laws, it appears clear that this Office is without jurisdiction to consider the procedural propriety of an updated roster submitted by you under your asserted authority as Chairman of the Republican State Executive Committee.

Specifically, in addition to the general provisions of W. Va. Code § 3-1-9(g), several court cases have opined that political parties possess broad authority over party regulation matters. Here, this Office has determined that this is one such matter that is beyond our regulatory purview.

Therefore, based on the stated reliance in your response regarding the broad powers granted to you by your party's bylaws, the updated Wood County Republican Executive Committee roster you submitted will be published publicly online.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D.M. Kersey, III".

Donald M. Kersey, III
General Counsel

The Office of the WV Secretary of State
State Capitol, Bldg. 1, Ste. 157-K
Charleston, WV 25304

Dkersey@wvsos.gov

(304) 368-6344 (direct)

(304) 558-6000 (main)